

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 042877
ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 SIG-01
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01
/111 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/NE:AAVACCARO:DLM
APPROVED BY INR/RNA:PHSTODDARD
SSM:CWKONTOS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
SSM

-----086644 180421Z /15

P 172141Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
TREASURY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 042877

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 042877

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 504 - FEBRUARY 17, 1978

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY
OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. LEBANON. THE SITUATION REMAINS TENSE IN THE CHRISTIAN SUBURBS OF AYN RUMANNEH AND FURN ASH-SHEBAK FOLLOWING THE KILLING LATE WEDNESDAY OF TWO SYRIAN SOLDIERS AND THE WOUNDING OF A THIRD. SOME SOURCES REPORT THAT THE SHOOTING OCCURRED FOLLOWING A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, WHILE LOCAL CHRISTIANS CLAIM THE SYRIANS HAD STOLEN A RADIO. THE SYRIANS HAVE DEMANDED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS REPORTEDLY WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST THE SYRIANS AND ABIDE BY THE DECISION OF THE NEW MIXED TRIBUNAL. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THIS WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO THE SYRIANS.

2. ACCORDING TO A MID-LEVEL SYRIAN OFFICIAL, THERE IS A DEFINITE FEELING AMONG RESPONSIBLE SYRIAN OFFICIALS THAT

THINGS WILL GET WORSE IN LEBANON BEFORE THEY IMPROVE AND THAT CLASHES BETWEEN LEBANESE ELEMENTS -- BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY -- AND SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR. THE SYRIANS BELIEVE THAT THESE CLASHES WILL UNITE DISPARATE LEBANESE MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS AGAINST THE SYRIANS. THEY FEEL FURTHER THAT, WHEN THIS OCCURS, ISRAEL WILL INCREASE ITS SUPPORT TO LEBANESE RIGHTISTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. CONSEQUENTLY, SYRIA WOULD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 042877

THEN HAVE TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

3. SYRIA. A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO EMBASSY DAMASCUS THAT SOVIET-SYRIAN RELATIONS ARE AT THEIR BEST LEVEL IN SEVERAL YEARS. ASSAD REQUESTED HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO EGYPT, ISRAEL AND THE US THAT SYRIA HAS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ITS CURRENT POSITION AND SIGNAL AT THE SAME TIME TO THE "REJECTIONIST" ARAB STATES THAT SYRIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO SEEKING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND TO UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. ASSAD WILL PROBABLY GET THE POLITICAL SUPPORT HE IS SEEKING, THE OFFICIAL SAID, BUT WILL NOT LIKELY RECEIVE ALL THE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY WEAPONRY HE WANTS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. SAUDIS-ARABS. DESPITE SOME RECENT LOW-KEY EFFORTS BY THE SAUDIS TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT, THE PROSPECTS FOR SAUDI ORCHESTRATION OF SYRIA'S REENTRY INTO THE PEACE PROCESS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE BRIGHT. THE SAUDI INCLINATION TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE IS TEMPERED BY THEIR LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SADAT

INITIATIVE, THEIR DIMINISHED FINANCIAL LEVERAGE ON SYRIA,
AND THE SYRIAN CONVICTION THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE WILL
FAIL.

5. SAUDI ACTIONS INCLUDE A VISIT TO KUWAIT BY
FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD ON JANUARY 23 TO ENLIST SUPPORT FOR
MEDIATION BETWEEN ASSAD AND SADAT. THE SAUDI DESIRE TO
BRING SYRIA AND EGYPT TOGETHER APPEARS TO STEM MORE FROM
THE CONVICTION THAT THE CONFRONTATION STATES MUST BE
UNITED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A SETTLEMENT THAN IT DOES FROM
FAITH IN THE SADAT INITIATIVE. INDEED, THE SAUDIS SEEM
CONVINCED THAT SADAT'S MOVE HAS DIVIDED THE MODERATE ARABS
AND THAT ONLY US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL CAN SAVE HIM. SINCE
THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP DOUBTS THAT ISRAEL WILL MAKE MEANING-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 042877

FUL CONCESSIONS, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO EXPEND A GREAT DEAL
OF POLITICAL OR FINANCIAL CAPITAL TO GET SYRIA ON BOARD.

-
-

6. AT THE SAME TIME, ASSAD, IN OUR VIEW, HAS BECOME
LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO SAUDI FINANCIAL BLANDISHMENTS.
FOR ONE THING, THE SYRIANS, LIKE OTHER ARABS, HAVE NOTED
THE GAP BETWEEN SAUDI OFFERS OF AID AND PERFORMANCE.
MOREOVER, THE LIBYANS SEEM READY TO UNDERWRITE A PORTION
OF NEW SYRIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIETS. (ASSAD
WILL BE IN MOSCOW NEXT WEEK, AND JALLUD IS THERE NOW.)
FINALLY, THE SOVIETS HAVE RELAXED THEIR CREDIT TERMS
WITH THE SYRIANS.

7. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, THE SYRIANS ARE
ATTEMPTING TO EXERT PRESSURE OF THEIR OWN TO ENLIST
RIYADH'S HELP IN KEEPING JORDAN FROM JOINING THE
EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. KHADDAM VISITED SAUDI
ARABIA AND KUWAIT LAST WEEK AND POINTEDLY ASSERTED AT
A PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT THAT KING KHALID HAD
REITERATED TO HIM SAUDI SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. THE STATEMENT SEEMS DESIGNED
TO SQUELCH RUMORS THAT SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT OBJECT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 042877

TO RESTORING THE WEST BANK TO JORDAN AND, BY IMPLICATION,
THAT SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORTED A JORDANIAN ROLE IN
NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE WEST BANK. (SECRET) VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MONITORING FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE042877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AAVACCARO:DLM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780075-0278
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780239/aaaabgxo.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c5fc07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3553388
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTSUM 504 - FEBRUARY 17, 1978 LONDON FOR KINSOLVING PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY
TAGS: PINR, MARR, EG, IS
To: SINAI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5fc07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014